



MEDIA RELEASE

LEADBETTER BEACH CLOSED DUE TO SEWAGE SPILL

SANTA BARBARA, CA – December 3, 2012

The City of Santa Barbara, Public Works Department has issued a **"BEACH CLOSED"** notice today at Leadbetter Beach in response to a spill of untreated sewage. The closure will continue until testing reveals it is safe.

The spill involved approximately 6,600 gallons of sewage and occurred on the 1100 Block of Luneta Plaza. The untreated sewage flowed into an adjacent storm drain that eventually discharges at Leadbetter Beach. As a result, Leadbetter Beach has been closed to recreational water contact. The affected area has been posted with signs warning the public to avoid contact with the water until sample results indicate the water is safe for recreational use. Contact with sewage contaminated water increases the risk for certain types of illnesses.

In addition, the public should wait until at least 10 days to harvest shellfish in the affected area. Because they are filter feeders, shellfish from contaminated waters represent an elevated risk of disease if consumed.

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